

Gujarat lawmakers vote for 2 Rajya Sabha seats today. BJP has an edge

Agency
Ahmedabad July 5,

By-polls for the two Rajya Sabha seats in Gujarat started on Friday with one candidate each from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress in the fray.

The BJP has fielded external affairs minister S Jaishankar and OBC leader Juglaji Thakor and the Congress has nominated Chandrika Chudasama and Gaurav Pandya for the seats.

Voting for the two seats, which started at 9am, will continue till 4pm in Gandhinagar. The counting will be held at 5pm the same day.

The by-polls on the two seats from Gujarat are being conducted after the BJP's sitting Rajya Sabha MPs Amit Shah and Smriti Irani resigned following their election to the Lok Sabha in May from Gandhinagar and Amethi, respectively.

The BJP - with 104 MLAs in the 182-member assembly - looks set to win both the seats in the by-polls. The Congress has 71 MLAs. Out of the total 182 MLAs, 175 legislators are qualified to exercise their franchise this time.

Other MLAs eligible to cast their vote are two from the Bharatiya Tribal Party, one from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and an Independent candidate.

Since elections on the two seats will be held separately, a candidate needs to garner a simple 50% votes to win. Each candidate will need 88 votes to secure victory.

Three MLAs will not be able to cast their vote in the by-polls as they have been disqualified for various reasons in the recent past, election commission officials said. Four seats are lying vacant after their sitting MLAs resigned on getting elected to the Lok Sabha.

'Cross-voting fears'
The Congress shifted 65 of its 71 state legislators to the resort in Banaskantha district on Wednesday night, amid apprehensions of cross-voting in the elections to two Rajya Sabha seats on Friday. The cross-voting fear of the Congress assumes greater significance as ahead of the Lok Sabha election this year, five MLAs left the party and joined the BJP.

All the 71 Congress MLAs attended their legislative party

meeting at the resort in on Thursday.

The Congress party had earlier said they would take their MLAs to Mount Abu, a hill station in neighbouring Rajasthan, the legislators were finally shifted to Balam Palace Resort.

Leader of Opposition in the assembly Paresh Dhanani reached the resort on the Abu-Palanpur highway in Banaskantha district, around 170km from Ahmedabad, late on Wednesday.

Disgruntled MLAs Alpesh Thakor and Dhavalsinh Zala skipped the meeting and four other MLAs — Gyasuddin Shaikh, Imran Khedawala, Bhikhabhai Joshi and Vikram Madam — had taken permission from party leaders for remaining absent, said state Congress spokesperson Manish Doshi.

"We have shifted our MLAs as a precautionary measure and as a part of our strategy. We all know the BJP had indulged in unethical practices and misused the machinery in the 2017 Rajya Sabha elections," Doshi said on Thursday, according to PTI. The Congress had flown its MLAs to a resort in

Karnataka's Bengaluru to prevent their exodus to the BJP and cross-voting ahead of the Rajya Sabha elections in 2017, when veteran party leader Ahmed Patel was seeking re-election.

More than ten Congress MLAs had either resigned or cross-voted in the election that year and Patel managed to save his seat only by one vote.

"The BJP can go up to any extent to acquire power. That is why we had kept our MLAs at one place to hold a day-long workshop. They will return on Friday morning, when voting would take place (in Gandhinagar)," he said.

Doshi said the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting was convened by Dhanani and Gujarat Congress president Amit Chavda, who is also an MLA.

"Both Pandya and Chudasama are also there and attended the meeting. A mock poll was also organised in the presence of both our candidates at the resort today (Thursday)," he added. While cross-voting by any opposition MLA will not affect the election results, Congress insiders said that party leaders feel it's a prestige issue.

Tamil Nadu court sentences MDMK chief Vaiko to 1 year in prison in sedition case

Agency
Chennai July 5,

MDMK chief Vaiko was on Friday sentenced to one year in jail by a special court in Tamil Nadu's Chennai in connection with a sedition case filed against him in 2009 by the DMK government in the southern state.

Judge J Shanthi held the senior Tamil Nadu leader guilty of sedition under section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and also imposed a fine of Rs 10,000. Vaiko, who was present in the court, said he never sought any leniency.



A petition was filed to suspend the conviction enabling an appeal against the order. The conviction and

sentence then stayed for a month. Police had registered a case under section 124(A) against Vaiko for the speech

he made while releasing his book Naan Kutram Sattugiren or I am Making the Accusation in 2009.

SC restores conviction of 12 people for Haren Pandya's murder

Agency
New Delhi July 5,

Supreme Court has restored the conviction in the Haren Pandya murder case while overruling Gujarat High Court judgement acquitting the accused.

SC also dismissed a public interest petition filed by NGO 'Centre for Public Interest

Litigation' (CPIL) seeking court-monitored fresh investigation into the killing and imposed a cost of Rs 50,000.

SC judgement follows appeals filed by CBI and the Gujarat government challenging the acquittal of 12 persons facing charges of murdering former state Home Minister Haren Pandya in 2003.

Pandya was minister in the then Narendra Modi-led state government in Gujarat. He was shot dead on March 26, 2003 in Ahmedabad near Law Garden during morning walk.

According to the CBI, he was murdered to avenge the 2002 communal riots in the state. The high court, while acquitting the 12 persons of

the charges of murder, had upheld the trial court's decision to convict them of the charges of criminal conspiracy, attempt to murder and for the offences under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA).

The apex court had on January 31 this year reserved the verdict on the appeals in the matter.

On January 5, 2012, the top court had admitted the appeals filed by the CBI and state against the high court's judgement.

According to CBI, prior to Pandya's killing, the convicts had made an attempt on the life of a local VHP leader Jagdish Tewari on March 11, 2003.

The agency had claimed these two incidents were part of a single conspiracy to spread terror among people in the aftermath of post-Godhra riots.

The offenders were illegally sent to Pakistan by absconding accused Rasool Parti and Mufti Sufiyan Patangia and trained at the behest of Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI, the agency had claimed.

The case was earlier probed by the state police but later handed over to the CBI.



The Festival of Ratha Yatra known as 'Kang' to Manipuris, began Yesterday across the State. Photo (Sh.Ajit)

Sport News

Delhi's Karan Vats and Haryana's Divansh Shukla march into quarters of 1st Sub Junior Boys' Boxing National

From a Correspondent
Rohtak, July 5,

Rising talent Karan Vats kept his impressive run going as he entered the 40kg quarter-finals of the first ever Sub Junior Boys' Boxing Nationals held at the National Boxing Academy in Rohtak, Haryana on Thursday.

The Delhi boy, a silver medallist at the School Nationals last year, was dominant in his 5-0 win over Punjab's Prabhakar Kalyan, underlining why he is one of the top future prospects in the Khelo India Scheme.

Delhi also had a winner in Rudra in 35kg where he edged Haryana's Vishesh 3-2 in a tight bout. In 43kg, Delhi boy Deepanshu faced some early resistance but managed to overcome Pankaj Singh Bhandari for a 4-1 victory. Statemate Priyanshu Dedha also continued his sizzling run in the 46kg category, notching up a flawless 5-0 win over Jharkhand's Rohit Kumar Yadav.

Local hope Divansh Shukla from Haryana was once again brilliant and was declared a winner by RSC in Round 3 over Meghalaya's Pratik Boral in 40kg. In 43kg, Akshat of the



same state pulled off a 5-0 win over Arunachal boxer Ato Ito. Punjab's Nikhil proved too strong for Bengal's Aman Das in his 5-0 victory in 46kg.

Goa too had winners in Laxman Toralkar in 35kg and Rupesh Bind in 43kg while Andhra Pradesh was represented in the winners' column by Yerransetty Harivarhan in 70+ kg and Ranjana Rohith in 46kg.

Uttar Pradesh's Gulham also made it to the quarters in 35kg, joining Maharashtra's Vedantbengle in 40kg and Gopal Katta in 37kg. The latter

put up a supremely confident performance against Neeraj of Jharkhand that resulted in a 5-0 win in Katta's favour.

Assam, a powerhouse of boxing, was led into the last-eight by Ohidur Rahman, a 4-1 winner over Piyush Barman of Bengal in 35kg. Bengal got a win through Anshu Routh in 40kg where he beat Himachal's Rishav Thakur 4-1.

33 teams and 326 boxers have participated in this seven-day tournament that will pick out the best of India's rising boys pugilists, with the grand finale taking place on July 8.

Rohit Sharma can break 3 World Records with one big innings

Agency
New Delhi July 5,

Rohit Sharma has a chance to create history by breaking three towering World Cup records when India take on Sri Lanka in their last group stage match of ICC World Cup 2019 on Saturday at Headingley, Leeds, India, having already secured their spot in the World Cup semi-finals with their victory against Bangladesh a few days ago, will eye the top spot by beating Sri Lanka and their vice-captain will have a chance to rewrite the record books of the game.

Rohit Sharma's innings of 104 against Bangladesh in India's previous match helped Virat Kohli and Co clinch their 3rd successive World Cup semi-final berth. His tournament tally now reads 544 runs at an average of 90.66 and a strike rate of 96.96. He is currently the highest-run scorer of the tournament.

There are a number of records Rohit Sharma could potentially equal or surpass with another substantial innings against Sri Lanka.

The most centuries in a single World Cup edition: Coupled with his century against Bangladesh during the 2015 Quarter Final, Rohit has 5 World Cup centuries. A look at the players with the most World Cup centuries:

The record for scoring most runs in a single World Cup belongs to India's Sachin Tendulkar. He had amassed 673 runs in the 2003 World Cup. While Rohit is still some distance away from that mark but with India confirmed of playing two more matches in this World Cup - against Sri Lanka and one semi-final - Rohit can

very well throw a tough challenge to that Tendulkar record. On a side note, Rohit's average of 90.66 is the second-best by any batsman who has scored 500+ runs in a single World Cup (after Sangakkara's 108.20 in 2015).

World Cup (although there are a few competitors in 2019!)

How does Rohit fare against Sri Lanka? The highest ODI score was by Rohit vs SL (264 at Kolkata, 2014).

Rohit's converted his last 3 fifties to centuries against Sri Lanka in ODIs.

All have come in his last 6 ODI innings versus them. In addition to his 264, he smashed 208* against SL at Mohali in 2017, becoming the first and only person to smash multiple double hundred against the same opponent in ODIs.

ICC World Cup: Pakistan to take on Bangladesh in final league game

Agency
New Delhi July 5,

In the ICC Cricket World Cup, Pakistan will take on Bangladesh in their final league game at Lord's this afternoon.

The match will begin at 3 PM Indian Standard Time.

Pakistan would need a miracle to qualify for the semifinals. After England's win over New Zealand on Wednesday,

Pakistan today needs to bat first and defeat Bangladesh by an outlandish margin of 316 runs. However, if Bangladesh bat first, Pakistan are out even before the game begins.

Pakistan currently sit fifth in the 10-team points table. Meanwhile, a win for Bangladesh will see them end the tournament in fifth place instead of Pakistan because of their superior net run-rate. The Tigers are already out of

the semifinal race after their defeat to India on Tuesday. Australia, India and England have already booked their places in the semifinals.

Last night, West Indies beat Afghanistan by 23 runs in their last league match at Leeds. Earlier, batting first, West Indies scored 311 runs for 6 wickets in 50 overs.

Chasing the formidable target, Afghanistan were all out off the final ball for 288.

Pass Book lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my bank pass book issued by State Bank of India (SBI), High Court Branch, Account number 30316968302 on the way between Langthabal to Paona Bazar on July 1, 2019.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Nahakpam Boboy Singh
Langthabal MantriKhong Mayai Leikai
Contact No - 8730984881